

as they descend to the centre of the lobe, they diverge more and more, and cross each other to form a plexus, first with oval and then with broader meshes, in which the nuclei and nucleated cells are collected into groups of corresponding shape and size.

From the plexus at the inner side of the lobe bundles converge from all parts to form the lower half of the peduncle, the upper part of which consists of masses of small nuclei, and gives attachment, by a short pedicle, to a small tubercle. This tubercle consists of closely aggregated nuclei connected by fibres which converge to its neck and escape into the peduncle of the optic lobe.

After concluding his description of the optic lobes, the author gives a short account of the structure and connexions of the remaining cerebral ganglia of the Cuttle-fish, with the view of determining their homologies.

From the nature of the parts which it supplies, the foremost or pharyngeal ganglion would seem to combine the function of the centres which give origin to the trigeminal, the olfactory, and the gustatory nerves in the vertebrata. The second bilobed ganglion appears to correspond partly to the cerebral lobes and partly to the cerebellum of fishes. The posterior portion of the subœsophageal mass is the analogue of the medulla oblongata; while the anterior portion may be regarded as the spinal cord concentrated below the œsophagus and in the neighbourhood of the feet, which derive all their nerves from that source.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The "Monde de la Mer."

[To Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S. &c.]

MY DEAR SIR,—I have just returned from a visit to the "Monde de la Mer," a noble aquarium opened to the public, at a charge of two francs per head, within the last week, on the Boulevard Montmartre. It is arranged as a large grotto, with cement stalactites, and the light almost entirely comes through the glass front of the aquaria.

There are no less than thirteen aquaria, with glass fronts, about 15 feet long, 4 feet deep; and there are glass facings to brick-and-cement tanks 5 or 6 feet wide. These thirteen are for salt water alone; but there are others for fresh water, and two little ponds, 10 or 12 feet across. The aquaria are lit by gaslights placed above, which light up in the most efficient manner the interior, and show every fish most perfectly.

There appears to be no confervoid growth; and doubtless the gaslight is unfavourable to such vegetation, but gives an illumination more resembling the natural condition in deep water.

A gas-engine is employed to change the water, which continually runs to a tank below, and is pumped back, the jet being thrown

with such force as to carry down a great quantity of air in very minute division—so much, in fact, that I thought it was done by an air-pump, until the attendant obliged me by allowing me to go behind the scenes and inspect the contrivance.

The “monde” de la mer in these tanks were truly wonderful: large fish a yard long, soles and skates of ample proportions, with lobster, crayfish, and numerous species of fish of brilliant colours, from the Mediterranean. Hundreds of anemones made a sort of flower-garden; and the effect was so interesting and so beautiful that it has but to be seen to be believed and appreciated.

The aquarium at the Zoological Gardens, which formerly attracted so much attention, was a mere baby to it, and gave no idea of the behaviour of the great-grandfather fish which are here contained.

It occurred to me that, if I was a child and fell in love with this beautiful exhibition, there must be hundreds and thousands of grown-up children who would also like to be introduced to the “Monde de la Mer.” Then why not get up a bigger “mer” and a more distinguished “monde” at the Zoological Gardens?

The place would be the bank sloping to the canal, looking towards the north; for fish have a decided natural objection to be cooked by a southern sun. And the moment I arrive in England I shall rush to the Zoo’ to see if perfidious Albion has copied the idea and out-mer’d and out-monde’d the “Monde de la Mer” of Paris.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ALFRED SMEE.

Hotel Meurice, Paris.

Nov. 19, 1866.

Bursting of a Monster Aquarium at the “Monde de Mer.”

A curious accident happened two days ago at the Aquarium establishment on the Boulevard Montmartre. At about three in the afternoon the visitors were suddenly alarmed by a loud detonation. The glass of the largest of the reservoirs filled with sea-water gave way, and the contents were precipitated all over the place. The alarmed spectators hastened to make their escape, and fortunately no one was seriously hurt. One gentleman was slightly cut on the chin, the arm, and the knee by some fragments of glass. The cause of the accident is a mystery, the supposition, however, now being that the glass was not strong enough to resist the pressure of the water, as the vessel contained about 15,000 gallons, being the largest in the establishment, and measuring nearly 15 feet in length.—*Standard*, Dec. 14, 1866.

On the Eyes of Caterpillars. By HERMANN LANDOIS.

Although the eyes of caterpillars attracted the attention of so ancient an anatomist as Malpighi, the most different statements with regard to them are met with, and some recent authors have even completely denied their existence. These eyes, nevertheless,